Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on November 29, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, November 29, 2002

Interview With TVR of Romania

November 18, 2002

Q. So, first of all, may I remark, sir, that you are the first President of the United States who grants an interview to the public television. And I thank you very much for that.

The President. Well, I'm honored. Thank you. And I'm so looking forward to coming to Romania. It's going to be an exciting trip for Laura and me.

Romania's Role in NATO

Q. To what extent, sir, Romania's candidacy has helped to implement your vision of a broad, robust NATO expansion?

The President. Well, first of all, I believe in the concept of Europe, free, whole, and at peace. And I think the fact that Romania will be a part of NATO recognizes that vision.

Secondly, Romania will be an active participate in the war against terror. And as we change the NATO strategy to reflect the true threats we face, Romania will work alongside the United States and other nations to make the world more peaceful.

Thirdly, I think it's very important for us to recognize that new countries that—admitted countries which had lived under a totalitarian state will bring a breath of fresh air, a vigor to the relationship because you remember the difference between freedom and a non-free state. You remember the difference between—you've seen the difference between good and evil. And that spirit, that strong determination for freedom is important in this Alliance.

Romanian Popular Support for NATO

Q. Sir, more than 80 percent of Romania's population supports NATO membership of my country. How important is this popular support in promoting America's policy towards a world of freedom and prosperity?

The President. Well, first of all, you got to understand some of my view on freedom. It's not American's gift to the world. See, freedom is God—is God-given. And—but we believe so strongly in freedom that we believe that when people have a taste of freedom, they will demand the institutions necessary to make sure freedom lasts.

And the Romanian people want to be free. People everywhere want to be free if they've seen the other side. And so the fact that Romania is a strong supporter of NATO really reflects more about Romania than it does reflect about us. What we want to do is we want to have an Alliance that is strong enough and capable enough to meet the true threats that we all face. And global terror is a threat. Believe me, it is a threat.

It is a threat not only to the United States, but it's a threat to any country which embraces freedom. No one is immune from global terror. And therefore—but we're more likely to succeed if we work together, which means work to cut off money, work to cut off access, work to share intelligence, and if need be, work together in the military way to defeat terror.

Romanian Economy

Q. What are the challenges facing the common people, the taxpayers, once Romania is a part of NATO?

The President. Well, the biggest problem that is going to face the taxpayers is to make sure the economy grows. But that's the problem we all face. I mean, we want to make sure people work. The most important criterion for success of any country, NATO or otherwise, is: Can people find a job? Will the economies flourish? Will open markets be able to yield the fruits of the labor for the common person? And the answer is, yes.

Romania is on its way to reform. We've got to be patient with Romania because Romania has come from a history of state-dominated—state-dominated industry, which

failed. And it failed to provide for the people. And so the reforms to the marketplace are going to take time. But the reforms will yield—will yield great prosperity, in my judgment. And it's a matter of time for that to happen.

Expectations of New NATO Members

Q. What do the United States expect from their new Allies, from Romania and the others?

The President. Well, we expect friendship. We expect that concept that says, if one of us is attacked, we're all attacked. That works both ways. If Romania is attacked, the Alliance comes to Romania's defense. If another country is attacked, we all go to that country's defense. That common defense will help make the world more peaceful.

Secondly, as we develop a new strategy as to how to face the new threats of the 21st century, a new military strategy, Romania will be called upon to do its part, as will the United States. And together, the sum of our parts will be significant in terms of keeping the peace.

President's Upcoming Visit to Romania

Q. What is going to be the message you will deliver to the Romanian people when you meet some of the inhabitants in the city of Bucharest?

The President. The message is: For a long time you struggled; you're now free. And you've got a great friend in the United States of America.

Q. Mr. President, it's been a great honor and privilege to interview you. Thank you very much for sharing your views with our public.

The President. Well, I am so looking forward to coming. It's going to be an honor to be there. I have—I'm working on my speech to the Romanian people. It's going to be a powerful moment for me and my wife, to see the people and to be in the famous square and to look at the statues of people who represent freedom. And it's going to be one of the highlights of my Presidency.

Q. You'll be most welcome, sir.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Good to meet you.

Q. Good to meet you, sir, and I hope you'll have a very good and successful trip.

The President. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:39 p.m. in the Library at the White House, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Remarks on Receiving the Order of Vytautas the Great in Vilnius, Lithuania

November 23, 2002

Mr. President, thank you very much. It's an honor to receive this award. And it's an honor to be the first United States President to come to Lithuania. Laura and I are honored to be here.

I want to thank the members of the Government who are here as well, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, other members of your Cabinet.

This is a great day for Lithuania. It shows the Lithuanians' commitment to freedom, to religious tolerance. It shows the Lithuanians' courage is being rewarded by membership in one of the greatest alliances ever formed.

The NATO Alliance will be stronger with Lithuania's presence. Not only will you help militarily, but as importantly, your presence will help lift, invigorate the spirit of the European North Atlantic Alliance. After all, Lithuania represents to me the courage of people standing in the face of tyranny and demanding freedom.

There are thousands of Americans today who rejoice at the fact that Lithuania will be joining with America in the NATO Alliance. I'm proud of your accomplishments, and my country is proud to call you friend. May God bless the people of Lithuania.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:24 a.m. at the Prezidentura. In his remarks, he referred to President Valdas Adamkus and Prime Minister Algirdas Mykolas Brazauskas of Lithuania. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

The President's Radio Address

November 23, 2002

Good morning. I'm speaking to you from Europe where, this week, I am meeting with NATO Allies and friends to discuss terrorism and other threats to our shared security.

It has also been an important week at home on Capitol Hill. After 2 years of achievements, which included tax relief and education reform, the last days of this session of Congress brought additional historic progress. Soon after I return from Europe, I will sign several important new laws that help secure the homeland and create jobs.

Republicans and Democrats approved a Department of Homeland Security that will unite dozens of Federal agencies and nearly 170,000 Federal workers behind a single, overriding mission, keeping Americans safe. This new Department will coordinate our response to any future emergency. It will help us know who's coming into our country and who's going out. This new Department will bring together the best intelligence information about our vulnerabilities to terrorist attack so that we can act quickly to protect America. I appreciate the Congress listening to my concerns and retaining the authority of the President to put the right people in the right place at the right time in defense of our country.

Congress also acted to protect the Nation's ports and coasts by passing port security legislation. With this law, we will add port security agents, restrict access to sensitive areas, and require ships to provide more information about the cargo, crew, and passengers they carry. These measures will help keep terrorists and their weapons out of America.

In addition, Congress passed terrorism insurance legislation to help protect our economy from any future terrorist attack. This new important law will lower insurance premiums and get many real estate and construction projects that had been put on hold moving again, creating thousands of hardhat jobs.

On my trip this week here in Europe, I'm consulting with our friends and NATO Allies about the new threats to freedom that we face together. Today, the United States is joined by more than 90 nations in a global coalition against terrorism, sharing intelligence, cutting off terrorist finance, and pursuing the terrorists where they plot and train. The world is also uniting to answer the unique and urgent threat posed by Iraq, whose dictator has already used weapons of mass destruction to kill thousands. We must not and will not permit either terrorists or tyrants to blackmail freedom-loving nations.

Our NATO Allies are making important contributions. Sixteen NATO countries have sent military forces to the fight against terror in Afghanistan, and at this week's summit, NATO committed to build a new military response force with strong, ready forces that are prepared to deploy on short notice wherever they are needed.

NATO members also voted to invite seven of Europe's newest democracies to join our Alliance. The addition of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia will increase NATO's military strength. These nations will also bring greater clarity to NATO's purposes because they know, from the hard experience of the 20th century, that threats to freedom must be opposed, not ignored or appeased.

This week, we saw the historic expansion of NATO and historic progress by Congress. Both will make America more secure.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:05 p.m. on November 21 at the Ambassador's Residence in Prague, Czech Republic, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 22 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the People of Lithuania in Vilnius

November 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for your friendship, and thank you for your leadership.

I'm also honored to be here with the Presidents of Latvia and Estonia. I want to thank them for coming as well. Laura and I are

honored to be here with you. Thank you for coming out to say hello.

This is a great day in the history of Lithuania, in the history of the Baltics, in the history of NATO, and in the history of freedom. The countries of NATO have opened the doors of our Alliance to Lithuania and six other European democracies. And I have the honor of sharing this message with you: We proudly invite Lithuania to join us in NATO, the great Atlantic Alliance.

Many doubted that freedom would come to this country, but the United States always recognized an independent Lithuania. We knew that this continent would not remain divided. We knew that arbitrary lines drawn by dictators would be erased, and those lines are now gone. No more Munichs. No more Yaltas. The long night of fear, uncertainty, and loneliness is over. You're joining the strong and growing family of NATO. Our Alliance has made a solemn pledge of protection, and anyone who would choose Lithuania as an enemy has also made an enemy of the United States of America. In the face of aggression, the brave people of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia will never again stand alone.

Audience members. *Aciu! Aciu! Aciu!*

The President. You're welcome. [*Laughter*] You are needed in the NATO Alliance. You will contribute to our common security. Yet the strength of NATO does not only depend on the might of armies but on the character of men and women.

We must be willing to stand in the face of evil, to have the courage to always face danger. The people of the Baltic states have shown these qualities to the world. You have known cruel oppression and withstood it. You were held captive by an empire, and you outlived it. And because you have paid its cost, you know the value of human freedom.

Lithuania today is true to its best traditions of democracy and tolerance and religious liberty, and you have earned the respect of my Nation and all nations.

Our Alliance of freedom is being tested again by new and terrible dangers. Like the Nazis and the Communists before them, the terrorists seek to end lives and control all life. And like the Nazis and the Communists before them, they will be opposed by free nations, and the terrorists will be defeated.

Over a decade ago, hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians joined hands, from Talin to Vilnius, to show your love for freedom. Near Cathedral Square is a stone commemorating that struggle. Inscribed on that stone is one word: Miracle. The recent history of the Baltic states truly is a miracle. You've gained your freedom. You have won your independence. You now join a great Alliance, and your miracle goes on.

Today on this great day, may God bless the memory of Lithuanian patriots and freedom fighters who did not live to see this moment. And may God always bless the brave and the free people of Lithuania.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless freedom.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in Rotuse Square. In his remarks, he referred to President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania, who introduced the President; President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; and President Arnold Ruutel of Estonia.

Remarks on Receiving the Star of Romania in Bucharest, Romania

November 23, 2002

Mr. President, thank you so much for this honor. I accept the Star of Romania on behalf of my country, and I appreciate the spirit of friendship that this award represents.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and members of your Government for such fine hospitality.

Laura and I are honored to be here, and so is my Cabinet—members of my Cabinet, as well as senior members of my staff. We're here because America and the nations of the world have seen the courage and character of the Romanian people. You have liberated yourselves from tyranny. You're building a vibrant democracy. And you're preparing to join NATO. In all these events of history, America has been your friend, and we'll be proud to call you Ally.

Mr. President, Romania and America share common values and common challenges. We will join together to open markets, to build a new relationship with Russia, to confront global terrorism, and to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Europe and America face unprecedented dangers to our security, and we will face these dangers together.

The Romanian people have made a great effort to meet the standards of NATO membership. That effort is succeeding. America respects all that you have done and all that you will do in the cause of freedom. And America will be your partner in continuing the work of reform.

On behalf of the American people, I proudly affirm the close relationship between our countries, and I thank you for the honor of this award. May God bless Romania.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:47 p.m. at Cotroceni Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of Romania.

Remarks to the People of Romania in Bucharest

November 23, 2002

Salut! Thank you all. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for being out here in the rain. Thank you for such a warm welcome. Laura and I are honored to be in this great country. As we started speaking, a rainbow appeared. God is smiling on us today.

I'm proud to stand in this great square and to bring the good wishes of the American people. Today we reaffirm the friendship between your country and mine. I'm honored to carry a message to the people of Romania: We proudly invite you to join NATO, the great alliance of freedom.

All around us are reminders of Romania's history and the culture we share. Close by is a church, three centuries old, a symbol of the faith that overcomes all oppression. In this square we see monuments of Romanian patriots who lost their lives in liberty—for the liberty of your nation. And here, in December of 1989, you broke the silence of your captivity. From that balcony, the dictator heard your voices and faltered and fled. Two generations of bitter tyranny ended, and all the world witnessed the courage of Romania, the courage that set you free.

Since those days of liberation, Romania has made an historic journey. Instead of hatred, you have chosen tolerance. Instead of destructive rivalry with your neighbors, you have chosen reconciliation. Instead of state control, you have chosen free markets and rule of law. And instead of dictatorship, you have built a proud and working democracy.

The path of freedom you've chosen is not easy, but it's the only path worth taking. I know that your hardship did not end with your oppression. America respects your labor, your patience, your daily determination to find a better life. Your effort has been recognized by an offer to NATO membership. We welcome Romania into NATO.

NATO's invitation to join was also a vote of confidence that you will continue the hard work of political, economic, and military reform. And as you do, you will have partners in all the nations of NATO. The promises of our Alliance are sacred, and we will keep our pledges to all the nations that join us. Should any danger threaten Romania—should any nation threaten Romania, the United States of America and NATO will be by your side. As a NATO Ally, you can have this confidence: No one will be able to take away the freedom of your country.

NATO membership will make Romania more secure, and Romania will add to the strength of the NATO Alliance as we face unprecedented new dangers. Already, our troops are serving side by side in Afghanistan. Already, Romania has joined the global coalition against terror. And we thank you very much.

The world has suffered enough from fanatics who seek to impose their will through fear and murder. The NATO Alliance and the civilized world are confronting the new enemies of freedom, and we will prevail.

Your country also brings moral clarity to our NATO Alliance. You value freedom because you have lived without it. You know the difference between good and evil because you have seen evil's face. The people of Romania understand that aggressive dictators cannot be appeased or ignored; they must always be opposed.

An aggressive dictator now rules in Iraq. By his search for terrible weapons, by his ties to terror groups, by his development of prohibited ballistic missiles, the dictator of Iraq threatens the security of every free nation, including the free nations of Europe. The United Nations Security Council and now NATO have spoken with one voice: The Iraqi regime will completely disarm itself of weapons of mass murder, or we, the United States, will lead a coalition of willing nations and disarm that regime in the name of peace.

Every nation must confront danger. Every free nation has a responsibility to play its full and responsible role. And together, Mr. President, we will preserve our freedoms, and we will work together to keep the peace.

In the peaceful future we're building, Romania will strengthen our lives in another way, as a bridge to a new Russia. For centuries, Romania's geography was a source of danger. Now, you can help our Alliance to extend a hand of cooperation across the Black Sea. Russia has nothing to fear from the growth of NATO, because Russia needs peaceful, stable neighbors, like Romania. As I told President Putin yesterday, a Russia that is fully part of Europe needs no buffer zone separating it from Europe. America and Romania are friends to the Russian people, and so is the NATO Alliance.

Mr. President, citizens of Romania, Laura and my visit to your beautiful country has been short, but the friendship, and soon the Alliance, between our countries will endure.

On this historic square, among the monuments to Romania's greatness, there's also a building left in ruins, the former offices of the secret police. It is a fitting reminder of all the cruelties done there and the justice that rose up against oppression. That grim monument also recalls the many brave Romanians who did not live to see this day. Our prayers are for them and their families. Yet, today, their hopes are being fulfilled. The nation they love is rising. Romania has won its freedom. Romania is resolute in difficulty and moving toward greater prosperity. And Romania is finding its place in the greatest—history's greatest alliance for freedom.

I have come to tell you that the world and my country knows the character of the people of this great country. We respect your country. We love the fact that you love freedom. May God bless you and your families. May God bless Romania. And may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:35 p.m. at the Piata Revolutiei. In his remarks, he referred to President Ion Iliescu of Romania, who introduced the President; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on the West Coast Ports Agreement

November 24, 2002

"I am very pleased that labor and management have reached an agreement concerning the West Coast ports. This agreement is good for workers, good for employers, and it's good for America's economy. I congratulate labor and management for working together to successfully resolve their disagreements, and I also commend the efforts of Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Peter Hurtgen, for their tireless efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion."

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Small Business

November 19, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

This report documents the state of small business at the end of the 20th century. Small businesses have always been the backbone of our economy. They perennially account for most innovation and job creation. Small businesses have sustained the economy when it is robust and growing as well as in weaker times when small businesses have put the economy back on the track to long-term growth.

We must work together to give small businesses an environment in which they can thrive. Small businesses are disproportionately affected by Government regulations and paperwork, and I am committed to reducing this burden. We should regulate only where there is a real need, fully justified through rigorous cost-benefit analysis and clear legal authority. And when Government must regulate, it must adopt commonsense approaches. Regulations work best when agencies anticipate and analyze the effects of their proposals on small firms. Rules need to reflect the ability of small businesses to comply.

Another barrier to unleashing the full potential of small business is our tax code. I am committed to reducing taxes for all Americans—especially small businesses. We must eliminate permanently the estate tax, which so often has spelled the death of the business and the jobs of its employees after the death of its founder. Our tax code should encourage investment in small businesses, and particularly in new and growing businesses. Because the innovations that drive tomorrow's economy come from entrepreneurial small businesses today, we must help them enter the marketplace, not impede them before they get there. Above all, small businesses need a tax code that is understandable and stable. Fairness, simplicity, transparency, and accountability should be our goals, and I am committed to this end.

Small business embodies so much of what America is all about. Self-reliance, hard work, innovation, the courage to take risks for future growth: these are values that have served our Nation well since its very beginning. They are values to be passed on from generation to generation. We must ensure that our small businesses continue to thrive and prosper, not just for their own sakes, but for all of us.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 19, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Awards for Management Excellence

November 25, 2002

Thanks a lot. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for coming today. I'm honored to be here to present the Presidential Awards for Management Excellence. I guess that's Washington, DC, talk for people doing the job the taxpayers expect. [*Laughter*] These awards recognize the best management practices in Government. This year's recipients have met high standards and, as a result, have earned the respect of the White House and our country.

Kay, I want to thank you for your leadership in this issue. I appreciate you making sure that the awards ceremonies reflect the desires of this administration to provide excellence for every taxpayer, to make sure the services we provide are relevant and necessary, that people who put their heart into their work are able to say that we're doing the job that the people expect. Kay is doing a great job for our country, and I'm glad she's on my team.

And so is our Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta. He has performed brilliantly as a Cabinet Secretary. He has taken on some tough jobs. I'll never forget, on 9/11, knowing the fact that Norm was in charge of making sure that our airspace was cleared. He did a fantastic job, and from that point on, he's been just as magnificent in making sure our airports are secure. I want to thank you for your service, Norm. He represents one of the award winners, the FAA Logistics Center.

And thank you for being here, Mr. Secretary, and thanks for the note on our anniversary.

I appreciate David Chu being here as well. He represents the Defense Department. There are two award winners from the Defense Department here today, the National Imaging and Mapping Agency and the 55th Wing of Offutt Air Force Base.

I want to thank Lt. Gen. James Clapper from the National Imaging and Mapping Agency for being here. And I want to thank Norman Bowles, who is the FAA Administration Logistics Center, for being here, and I want to thank Timothy Jones, the Commander of the 55th Wing, for coming as well. Congratulations for a job well done.

There were runner-ups for this award, and three of the finalists have representatives here today, starting with another member of my Cabinet, Christie Todd Whitman, who runs the Environmental Protection Agency. Christie Todd, thanks for being here. Pat Pizzella is the Assistant Secretary for Labor for Administration and Management. Pat, I appreciate you coming, and thank the good folks who almost won for their hard work. [*Laughter*] Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget, of the Interior, thank you for being here, Lynn. I appreciate your hard work as well. Give Gale Norton my best.

I want to thank the members of the President's Management Council and the Human Resources Management Council for helping on this project. I want to thank the President's Quality Awards evaluators, those who looked around all our Government to find out who deserved this award. I want to appreciate you for your hard work. I want to thank the judges for picking the winners. Better you pick them than me, I might add. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the Director of the Ronald Reagan Building and his staff for putting up with a Presidential trip. Again, I want to thank you all for coming. And I want to thank you for serving your country.

Public service is a high, high calling. And I'm proud of the men and women who devote their lives to our great Nation. You put in long hours. You watch every penny in the budget—or you should watch every penny in the budget. [*Laughter*] You know who the boss is: The boss is the taxpayer. That's who we work for. You do your job right, and a lot of times, you don't get much attention. Today, we're here to pay attention to the people who are doing the job really well, to honor excellence, to reward success.

This award is like what we call the Malcolm Baldrige Award. The Malcolm Baldrige Award recognizes excellence in the private sector. This award recognizes excellence in the public sector. It honors really high management quality.

The President's Award also recognizes that our Government has got unique challenges. I mean, we've got challenges in dealing with bureaucracies that have been around a long time. We've got challenges in fighting inertia. We've got challenges in setting new goals and high standards in agencies that sometimes aren't anxious to change. It's different than the private sector, obviously. But nevertheless, it doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to try and overcome any obstacles to excellence.

The award criteria are based on my management agenda. Kay James explained that agenda to you earlier. We take it very seriously, and we're going to continue to push the agenda, because we think it is best for our country and best for the people we serve.

There have been dozens of excellent nominees who were considered, but three stood out. Today we're here to honor the three. They stood out because they set clear goals and they reached the goals. Each identified a critical challenge. Each considered solutions. Each drew up a plan and a strategy. And then, as importantly, they carried it out. These organizations did more than just make promises; they made good on their promises.

The first recipient is the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Bethesda, Maryland. And for all of you who work there, I want to congratulate you for winning this award. General Clapper, you might stand up and give everybody a wave. Thank you very much, General. Congratulations to you and your team. [*Applause*]

This agency deals with a complex technology. And one of the things they need to do is to work to keep the workforce. It's hard to keep a workforce in the Government, particularly when the workforce is specialized and talented like—like the General needs.

There's a lot of competition for good and skilled Federal workers. And so therefore, it requires—in the private sector—we compete with the private sector to keep good people in place. And so therefore, it requires imaginative ways to attract and retain the very best, and I appreciate you for doing that. You've excelled at high retention to make sure this critical agency has got the expertise needed to help America.

Secondly, we honor—is the Federal—FAA Logistics Center in Oklahoma City. If anybody works for the FAA Logistics Center in Oklahoma City that's here, please stand up so we can recognize you. Thank you all. [*Applause*] Congratulations. Congratulations to you all.

The center supports America's entire system of air traffic safety and provides everything from electronic repair to inventory management. That's a big job. And yet for a while, the system was backwards. Because of a preset fee arrangement, the customers had little incentive to save money. And the system was prone to be overloaded with what they call rush orders. In other words, the system was designed backwards. And these good folks recognized that and put in place new accounting procedures which now make sure that every customer has got information based upon the cost of each order, which in itself provides incentive for budget control. I want to congratulate you on taking a very complex assignment and making it work on behalf of the American people. Good job.

And finally, the third winner is the largest wing in America's Air Combat Command, the 55th, at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. I had the—I was there on September 11th, 2001, at Offutt. I remember their motto. It says, "The Sun Never Sets on the Fighting 55th." And that's good for the defense of the country, by the way.

I want to thank the good folks at—at Offutt for recognizing that outsourcing is an important part of efficiency in our Government. They identified the best and most cost-effective approaches for hundreds of different tasks on the base. They work closely with contractors, opened the process to employee feedback and concerns, and have saved our taxpayers millions of dollars. They made sure that the system was efficient and effective. They recognize that there are different ways to meet goals, and they encourage the entrepreneurial spirit as a part of meeting the goals that we expect. General—thank you all for coming. Congratulations. Please thank all the folks at the 55th for doing a fine job. Please stand up. [*Applause*] Good job.

These are examples of what can happen when people put their mind to delivering excellence on behalf of the taxpayers. There's creativity and flexibility, people willing to think outside of the proverbial box. And as a result, our country is better off.

One of the reasons why we have these awards is to hold up your example for other people in Government. Other people should recognize that if they make the right decisions, set high goals, are creative about achieving those goals, they too can receive this award, which is an important award.

When you get back to your offices, make sure your fellow employees know how proud we are of the work they—that you've done, how proud we are of their service to our country, what a credit they are to the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

And so we're here to congratulate three fine agencies, three fine groups of our fellow Americans, all working together to do our job.

I recently came back from Europe. I had an excellent trip on behalf of the citizens of our country. But there's no question in my mind, no question in my mind, I represent and you represent the finest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth. I hope you feel that way every day when you go to work. I do.

And so, on behalf of a grateful nation, congratulations. Thanks for what you do. Keep doing what you do. And I hope to see you back here next year. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:11 a.m. in the Amphitheater at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to Norman Bowles, Program Director, Federal Aviation Administration Logistics Center; Brig. Gen. Timothy Jones, USAF, Commander, 55th Wing, Air Combat Command, Offutt Air Force Base; and Robert Schall, director, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Remarks on Signing the Homeland Security Act of 2002

November 25, 2002

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome, and welcome to the White House.

Today we are taking historic action to defend the United States and protect our citizens against the dangers of a new era. With my signature, this act of Congress will create a new Department of Homeland Security, ensuring that our efforts to defend this country are comprehensive and united.

The new Department will analyze threats, will guard our borders and airports, protect our critical infrastructure, and coordinate the response of our Nation to future emergencies. The Department of Homeland Security will focus the full resources of the American Government on the safety of the American people. This essential reform was carefully considered by Congress and enacted with strong bipartisan majorities.

I want to thank Tom Ridge, the Homeland Security Adviser, for his hard work on this initiative. I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet who are here for their work. I want to thank the Members of Congress who are with us today, particularly those Members of Congress who were essential to the passage, many of whom stand up here on the stage with me. One Member not with us is our mutual friend from Texas, Phil Gramm. I appreciate his hard work. I thank the work of Senator Fred Thompson and Senator Joe Lieberman. I appreciate Zell Miller and Don Nickles' hard work as well. We've got a lot of Members from the House here, and I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to pay homage to Dick Armey, who shepherded the bill to the floor of the House of Representatives. I'll miss him. I'm not so sure everybody will. [*Laughter*] But I appreciate your time here. I thank Tom DeLay for making sure the bill got passed. I thank Rob Portman for his hard work. And I want to thank Ellen Tauscher as well for her leadership on this issue.

I appreciate Kay James of the Office of Personnel Management, who worked so hard to make sure this effort was understood by everybody in our Government. And I want to thank the other administration officials who are here, many of whom are going to be responsible for seeing to it this new Department functions well.

I want to thank all the local and State officials who are here with us today—I see Governors and county judges, mayors—for coming. My own mayor, the Mayor of Washington, DC, I appreciate you coming, Mr. Mayor. I want to thank the local and State law enforcement officials who are here, the chiefs of police and fire chiefs who are with us today. I see the chief of my city now is here as well. Thank you, Mr. Chief, for coming.

I want to thank the union representatives who are here. We look forward to working with you to make sure that your people are treated fairly in this new Department. I want to thank the Federal workers who are here. You're charged with being on the front line of protecting America. I understand your job. We look forward to working with you to make sure you get your job done. I want to thank the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council as well, and thank you all for coming.

From the morning of September the 11th, 2001, to this hour, America has been engaged in an unprecedented effort to defend our freedom and our security. We're fighting a war against terror with all our resources, and we're determined to win.

With the help of many nations, with the help of 90 nations, we're tracking terrorist activity; we're freezing terrorist finances; we're disrupting terrorist plots; we're shutting down terrorist camps; we're on the hunt one person at a time. Many terrorists are now being interrogated. Many terrorists have been killed. We've liberated a country.

We recognize our greatest security is found in the relentless pursuit of these cold-blooded killers. Yet, because terrorists are targeting America, the front of the new war is here in America. Our life changed and changed in dramatic fashion on September the 11th, 2001.

In the last 14 months, every level of our Government has taken steps to be better prepared against a terrorist attack. We understand the nature of the enemy. We understand they hate us because of what we love. We're doing everything we can to enhance security at our airports and powerplants and

border crossings. We've deployed detection equipment to look for weapons of mass destruction. We've given law enforcement better tools to detect and disrupt terrorist cells which might be hiding in our own country.

And through separate legislation I signed earlier today, we will strengthen security at our Nation's 361 seaports, adding port security agents, requiring ships to provide more information about the cargo, crew, and passengers they carry. And I want to thank the Members of Congress for working hard on this important piece of legislation as well.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 takes the next critical steps in defending our country. The continuing threat of terrorism, the threat of mass murder on our own soil, will be met with a unified, effective response. Dozens of agencies charged with homeland security will now be located within one Cabinet Department with the mandate and legal authority to protect our people. America will be better able to respond to any future attacks, to reduce our vulnerability and, most important, prevent the terrorists from taking innocent American lives.

The Department of Homeland Security will have nearly 170,000 employees, dedicated professionals who will wake up each morning with the overriding duty of protecting their fellow citizens. As Federal workers, they have rights, and those rights will be fully protected. And I'm grateful that the Congress listened to my concerns and retained the authority of the President to put the right people in the right place at the right time in the defense of our country.

I've great confidence in the men and women who will serve in this Department and in the man I've asked to lead it. As I prepare to sign this bill into law, I am pleased to announce that I will nominate Governor Tom Ridge as our Nation's first Secretary of Homeland Security. Americans know Tom as an experienced public servant and as the leader of our homeland security efforts since last year. Tom accepted that assignment in urgent circumstances, resigning as the Governor of Pennsylvania to organize the White House Office of Homeland Security and to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect the American people. He's done a superb job. He's the right man for this new and great responsibility.

We're going to put together a fine team to work with Tom. The Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, will be nominated for the post of Deputy Secretary. And Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, now the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, will be nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security.

The Secretary-designate and his team have an immense task ahead of them. Setting up the Department of Homeland Security will involve the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since Harry Truman signed the National Security Act. To succeed in their mission, leaders of the new Department must change the culture of many diverse agencies, directing all of them toward the principal objective of protecting the American people. The effort will take time and focus and steady resolve. It will also require full support from both the administration and the Congress. Adjustments will be needed along the way. Yet this is pressing business, and the hard work of building a new Department begins today.

When the Department of Homeland Security is fully operational, it will enhance the safety of our people in very practical ways. First, this new Department will analyze intelligence information on terror threats collected by the CIA, the FBI, the National Security Agency, and others. The Department will match this intelligence against the Nation's vulnerabilities and work with other agencies and the private sector and State and local governments to harden America's defenses against terror.

Second, the Department will gather and focus all our efforts to face the challenge of cyberterrorism and the even worse danger of nuclear, chemical, and biological terrorism. This Department will be charged with encouraging research on new technologies that can detect these threats in time to prevent an attack.

Third, State and local governments will be able to turn for help and information to one Federal domestic security agency, instead of more than 20 agencies that currently divide these responsibilities. This will help our local

governments work in concert with the Federal Government for the sake of all the people of America.

Fourth, the new Department will bring together the agencies responsible for border, coastline, and transportation security. There will be a coordinated effort to safeguard our transportation systems and to secure the border so that we're better able to protect our citizens and welcome our friends.

Fifth, the Department will work with State and local officials to prepare our response to any future terrorist attack that may come. We have found that the first hours and even the first minutes after the attack can be crucial in saving lives, and our first-responders need the carefully planned and drilled strategies that will make their work effective.

The Department of Homeland Security will also end a great deal of duplication and overlapping responsibilities. Our objective is to spend less on administrators in offices and more on working agents in the field, less on overhead and more on protecting our neighborhoods and borders and waters and skies from terrorists.

With a vast nation to defend, we can neither predict nor prevent every conceivable attack. And in a free and open society, no Department of Government can completely guarantee our safety against ruthless killers who move and plot in shadows. Yet our Government will take every possible measure to safeguard our country and our people.

We're fighting a new kind of war against determined enemies. And public servants long into the future will bear the responsibility to defend Americans against terror. This administration and this Congress have the duty of putting that system into place. We will fulfill that duty. With the Homeland Security Act, we're doing everything we can to protect America. We're showing the resolve of this great Nation to defend our freedom, our security, and our way of life.

It's now my privilege to sign the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey. H.R. 5005, approved November 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107–296.

Statement on Signing the Homeland Security Act of 2002

November 25, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5005, the "Homeland Security Act of 2002." The Act restructures and strengthens the executive branch of the Federal Government to better meet the threat to our homeland posed by terrorism. In establishing a new Department of Homeland Security, the Act for the first time creates a Federal department whose primary mission will be to help prevent, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism on our soil.

Section 103(a)(8) of the Act provides for 12 Assistant Secretary positions without defined titles or duties in the new Department that are to be "appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate." Sections 201(b)(1) and 201(b)(2) of the Act provide for two Assistant Secretary positions with defined titles and duties that are to be "appointed by the President." The text and structure of the Act make clear that these two presidentially appointed Assistant Secretary positions were created in addition to the 12 unspecified Assistant Secretary positions, and the executive branch shall construe the relevant provisions accordingly.

With respect to section 201(h), upon the recommendations of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Secretary of Defense, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and other appropriate executive branch officials, I will determine which elements of the Department of Homeland Security are concerned with the analysis of foreign intelligence information.

Section 214(a)(1)(D)(ii) provides that voluntarily shared critical infrastructure information shall not be used or disclosed by any Federal employee without the written consent of the person or entity submitting the information, except when disclosure of the information would be to the Congress or the Comptroller General. The executive branch does not construe this provision to impose any independent or affirmative requirement to share such information with the Congress or the Comptroller General and shall construe it in any event in a manner consistent

with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Section 231 establishes an "Office of Science and Technology" within the National Institute of Justice, and under the general authority of the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. According to subsection 231(b), "[t]he Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall be an individual appointed based on approval by the Office of Personnel Management of the executive qualifications of the individual." The executive branch will construe this provision in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Appointments Clause of Article II of the Constitution. Because the Director would exercise significant governmental authority and thus be an "officer" whose appointment must be made in conformity with the Appointments Clause, I hereby direct the Attorney General to appoint the Director.

Section 232(e) of the Act provides that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology within the Department of Justice shall have sole authority over decisions relating to publications issued by the Office. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 306(a) of the Act provides that research conducted by the Department shall be unclassified "to the greatest extent practicable." In addition, section 425 adds section 44901(d)(3) to title 49 of the United States Code, requiring the submission of classified reports concerning the screening of checked baggage for explosives in the aviation system to certain committees of Congress. The executive branch shall construe and carry out these provisions, as well as other provisions of the Act, including those in title II of the Act, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional and statutory authorities to control access to and protect classified information, intelligence sources and methods, sensitive law enforcement information, and information the disclosure of which could otherwise harm the foreign relations or national security of the United States.

Section 311(h) of the Act provides for the preparation and transmittal to the Congress of reports prepared by the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Several sections of the Act, including section 414, 476, and 873(c), purport to require the submission of budget requests for the new Department to the Congress and to require such requests to be in a particular form. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 452(c)(2) of the Act prohibits various officers of the Department or the Office of Management and Budget from reviewing reports and other material prepared by the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman. The executive branch shall construe this section in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 473(f) of the Act purports to require the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General to comply with requests from the General Accounting Office (GAO) for certain information in the course of GAO preparation of reports on demonstration projects relating to disciplinary action. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Provisions in the Act, including sections 418(b), 428(e)(7)(B), 460, 477(c)(2)(F),

882(c)(3), and 893(a) purport to require executive branch officials to submit to the Congress plans for internal executive branch activities or recommendations relating to legislation. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 507 describes some of the functions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, specifically referencing "the functions and authorities prescribed by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*)." Because section 503(1) transfers all functions of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Department of Homeland Security, including those existing pursuant to laws other than the Stafford Act, the executive branch shall not construe the specification of the Stafford Act in section 507 as limiting in any way the transfer of the other authorities currently belonging to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Section 812(a) authorizes Inspectors General and their assistants and agents to make criminal arrests without warrants for any Federal felony if they have "reasonable grounds to believe" that the subject committed or is committing the offense. Because the Supreme Court has held that the standard of probable cause applies to all arrests, regardless of circumstances, the grounds for making an arrest under this standard are only "reasonable" if they include probable cause to believe that the subject has committed or is committing a crime. The Inspectors General, their assistants, and agents must accordingly have probable cause before making an arrest pursuant to this section. The authority to make criminal arrests and to exercise other law enforcement authorities conveyed by this section is to be exercised in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Attorney General, as provided by section 6(e)(4) of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as added by section 812(a).

Section 873(b) describes conditions under which gifts or donations of services or property of the Department may be accepted, used, or disposed of by third parties. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with existing legal authorities being transferred to the Department of Homeland Security and shall not construe it to effect an implied repeal of any such authority.

Section 878 provides that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall appoint a senior official in the Department to assume primary responsibility for certain counternarcotics efforts and to serve as the United States Interdiction Coordinator for the Office of National Drug Control Policy. In making this appointment, the Secretary of Homeland Security will consult with and seek recommendations from the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Section 879 establishes an Office of International Affairs with responsibilities to promote information and education exchange with foreign nations with respect to best practices and technologies relating to homeland security. This Office will carry out these functions in close coordination with the Department of State and other relevant Government agencies.

Section 886 recites a series of findings and provides the sense of the Congress concerning aspects of section 1385 of title 18, United States Code, commonly known as the Posse Comitatus Act. This provision does not purport to alter, modify, or otherwise affect the Posse Comitatus Act or judicial interpretations of that Act, and the executive branch shall construe this provision accordingly.

Section 895 of the Act purports to amend Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure by expanding the permissible scope of grand jury information that may be shared by prosecutors. On April 29, 2002, however, the Supreme Court proposed a set of amendments to Rule 6 that, under section 2074 of title 28, are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2002. There is no indication that the Congress' different amendments to Rule 6(e) were intended to reject the Supreme Court's pending proposal, and my Administration will construe the Act so that the Supreme Court's proposed amendments to Rule 6 will still go into effect, without alteration, on December 1, 2002. As a result of those intervening amendments, when section

895 becomes effective in 60 days, its directions for amendment will no longer correspond to the underlying text of Rule 6(e). In the next Congress, technical amendments will be necessary to add the changes in this section to those already accomplished by the Supreme Court pursuant to sections 2072 and 2074 of title 28.

Section 1313(a)(2) provides authority to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to establish a program for providing voluntary separation incentive payments to "individuals serving in the judicial branch." Based upon an understanding of the intent of this provision, as well as appropriate respect for principles of judicial independence, the executive branch shall construe "individuals serving in the judicial branch" to exclude those individuals serving as members of the Federal judiciary.

Section 1331 adds an amended section 4107(b)(1)(A) to title 5, United States Code, which requires that, in exercising authority to assign and fund academic degree training for certain Federal employees, an agency "take into consideration the need to maintain a balanced workforce in which women, members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and persons with disabilities are appropriately represented in Government service." The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the Equal Protection component of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 25, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5005, approved November 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107–296.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Reorganization Plan for the Department of Homeland Security

November 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 1502 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, I submit herewith the enclosed Reorganization Plan for the Department of Homeland Security. The Reorganization Plan provides information concerning the elements identified in section 1502(b), and is subject to modification pursuant to section 1502(d) of the Act. In accordance with section 1502(a) of the Act, please transmit this Reorganization Plan to the appropriate congressional committees.

The details of this Plan are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Statement on Signing the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002

November 25, 2002

Today I have signed into law S. 1214, the "Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002." This Act will strengthen security at our Nation's seaports by requiring comprehensive security plans for U.S. ports and mandating improved identification and screening of seaport personnel.

Certain provisions of the Act, including sections 102, 103(b), 110(c)(4), and 112(4), purport to require an executive branch official to submit recommendations to the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch. Moreover, to the extent such provisions of the Act would require submission of legislative recommendations, they would impermissibly impinge upon the President's constitutional authority to submit only those legislative recommendations that he judges to be necessary and expedient. Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe such provisions as requiring submission of legislative recommendations only where the President judges them necessary and expedient.

Section 102 of the Act adds a new section 70109 to title 46 of the United States Code. This provision purports to require one of my

subordinates to notify foreign officials of certain findings and recommend antiterrorism measures to them. The constitutional authority of the President over foreign affairs necessarily entails discretion over these matters, and so the executive branch shall interpret this provision as precatory.

Section 102 of the Act also adds a new section 70112 to title 46. Section 70112(a)(1)(B) purports to authorize an advisory committee in the executive branch to make available to the Congress recommendations that the committee makes to the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and to protect the deliberative processes of the Executive.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 25, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1214, approved November 25, was assigned Public Law No. 107–295.

Remarks on Signing the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

November 26, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Good morning, and welcome to the White House. Today we're taking action to strengthen America's economy, to build confidence with America's investors, and to create jobs for America's workers. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act will provide coverage for catastrophic losses from potential terrorist attacks. Should terrorists strike America again, we have a system in place to address financial losses and get our economy back on its feet as quickly as possible. With this new law, builders and investors can begin construction in real estate projects that have been stalled for too long and get our hardhats back to work.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet who are here who worked on this bill, Paul O'Neill and Don Evans and Elaine Chao. Thank you all for coming.

I appreciate the Members of Congress who are here, particularly those on the stage with me who worked hard to get the bill passed: Chairman Paul Sarbanes; Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who did a lot of work to get the bill done; Senator Harry Reid worked hard on this piece of legislation as well. I appreciate Chairman Mike Oxley from the House, who also worked, along with Senator Dodd, to get this important piece of legislation passed. Mike, thank you for your leadership on this issue. As well, we're joined by other key players from the House of Representatives, Sue Kelly, Chris Shays, John LaFalce, and Ken Bentsen. These Members of Congress put the interests of the country ahead of partisanship, and as a result of their hard work, I'm able to sign the bill today. I want to thank you for your leadership.

I also want to thank the union leaders who are here today, people with whom we've worked hard to get this done, leaders who put the interest of their membership right on the line. Doug McCarron—appreciate your leadership, Doug. He's the general president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. Frank Hanley is the general president of the International Union of Operating Engineers, is with us today. Joe Hunt is the general president of the Iron Workers International Union; Ed Sullivan, who is the president of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AF of L–CIO; Terry O'Sullivan, who is the general president of the Laborers International Union of North America.

I appreciate the workers from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and Iron Workers and the Building and Construction Trade Department of the AFL–CIO, who are with us today representing thousands of people who are going to go back to work, thanks to this piece of legislation. Thanks for your leadership, and thanks for your presence.

The attacks of September the 11th, 2001, devastated lives, leveled buildings, and seriously, seriously disrupted our economy. Businesses suffered. The stock market halted trading. Many insurance companies stopped covering builders and real estate owners against the risk of attack. Premiums skyrocketed. Protections were diminished.

Across America, hospitals and office buildings and malls and museums and construction jobs and many transportation companies have had difficulty finding terrorism insurance.

More than $15 billion in real estate transactions have been canceled or put on hold because owners and investors could not obtain the insurance protection they need. Commercial construction is at a 6-year low, and thousands of hardhat workers have been kept off the job. Commercial mortgage-backed securities have seen their bond ratings lowered, hurting many Americans invested in the bond market, including teachers and police officers and firefighters, who have lost money in their pension plans.

By helping to ensure that terrorism insurance is affordable and available, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act will permit many construction projects to move forward and to help this economy grow. Billions of dollars in investments will be more secure. The Nation's hardhats will get back to work, being able to put food on the table for their families. Investors in markets will have greater confidence that our economy is strong enough to withstand a future attack, and that's important.

This new law will also help the economy in the legal system by discouraging abusive lawsuits. Civil cases resulting from a terrorist attack will be combined in a single Federal court. Lawyers will be prevented from shopping for courts with a reputation for outrageous awards. Judgments and rulings will be more consistent.

It's important for our taxpayers to understand that taxpayer dollars will not be used to pay punitive damages. I'm grateful to the Members of Congress who put the interest of the workers and taxpayers ahead of lawyers. I look forward to working with the new Congress on stronger measures to prevent abusive lawsuits. And today I'm taking steps to ensure that no taxpayer dollar will be spent on legal settlements without the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary will work to ensure that settlements are fair to victims, not windfalls for the legal class of America.

The act of Congress I sign today will encourage greater competition in the insurance market and add strength to our economy. But there's more to do. I'll work with Democrats and Republicans in the next Congress to pass a growth-in-jobs package early next year. My Administration is determined to make America safer, to make our economy stronger, and we're making progress on both fronts.

America has entered a new kind of war, requiring aggressive action abroad and active defense at home. Yesterday, I signed into law the new Department of Homeland Security, to organize our Government for the long-term challenge of protecting America. Today, with terrorism insurance, we're defending America by making our economy more secure. Both these achievements show the unity of our Nation in a time of testing and our resolve to lead America to a better day.

I'm now pleased to sign the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 3210, approved November 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107–297. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Implementation of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

November 26, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury

I hereby direct you to exercise your authority under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to propose a rule that would require an insurer to obtain your advance approval of any proposed settlement of causes of action described in section 107 arising out of or resulting from an act of terrorism.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 26, 2002

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Rose Garden. I'm glad you all are here.

I see the turkey standing there. [*Laughter*] He looks a little nervous, doesn't he? [*Laughter*] He probably thinks he's going to have a press conference. [*Laughter*]

I really appreciate you coming to watch me give this bird a Presidential pardon. I'm especially glad to see all the young people who are here. Thank you for coming—and such wonderful looking costumes. We welcome the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Boy Scouts, and school students from the Washington, DC, area. Thanks for coming to the White House.

I wish my dog Barney was here. [*Laughter*] But I'm afraid Barney would have met his match with that turkey. [*Laughter*] So we kept him inside.

I want to thank the Secretary of Agriculture for coming. Ann, it's great to see you. I appreciate all our distinguished guests for being here. I particularly want to thank Ron Prestage, who is the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. It turns out his dad, Bill, was the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. We kind of like father-and-son combos around here. [*Laughter*] It's also good to have Alice Johnson with us as well. Thank you all for coming.

The Thanksgiving proclamation which I signed this morning is a Presidential tradition which began with George Washington. The days of Thanksgiving are an American tradition. We've observed this tradition since the Pilgrims. Americans have always been a grateful people: We're grateful for our freedom; we're grateful for our families; we're grateful for our beautiful country.

Each year at Thanksgiving, we gather in that spirit to count our blessings and to share those blessings with our families and with others. On this holiday, American families will be thinking of loved ones far from home, especially members of our military, who defend our country.

We remember those in other lands who suffer under oppression, who long for freedom, and we pray that they might one day live in a world at peace and in a free society. And in this Nation of many faiths, we ask that the almighty God continue to bless us and to watch over us.

And now, as we look to our national day of Thanksgiving, I have the honor of carrying out an important Presidential tradition. The bird's name is Katie. [*Laughter*] Ron, it was awfully nice of you to name that bird after your daughter. It's a high honor to be named—to have that turkey named after your child. And it's a fine looking turkey. [*Laughter*]

By virtue of this pardon, Katie is on her way not to the dinner table but to Kidwell Farm in Herndon, Virginia. There she'll live out her days as safe and comfortable as she can be.

Thank you all for coming. Happy Thanksgiving. I look forward to having a conversation with Katie. Let's do it.

[*At this point, the President greeted audience members.*]

All right, thank you all for coming. Happy Thanksgiving.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Alice Johnson, president, National Turkey Federation.

Message on the Observance of Hanukkah, 2002

November 26, 2002

I am pleased to send greetings to everyone celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights.

For eight days and nights, Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the ancient story of Israel's courageous faith. In a victorious struggle against their oppressors, the Maccabees heroically overcame enormous odds to liberate the ancient kingdom of Israel. Hanukkah reminds us that faith can give us the strength to overcome oppression. Today, the spirit of the Maccabees continues to live and thrive among the Jewish people and in the State of Israel.

During the eight days of Hanukkah, Jews throughout the world gather with family and friends to rejoice and celebrate. Each night, they light a branch of the menorah to commemorate the miracle of the lamp that, with only enough oil for one day, burned in the ancient Temple for eight days. The festival of lights culminates on the eighth night when all the candles burn in unity, symbolizing the

eternal light of the Temple and the long-standing struggle of the Jewish people against adversity.

Americans join in thanking God for our blessings and renew our commitment to the values of faith, family, and community that make us strong. The candles of Hanukkah remind us that in the face of darkness, goodness will prevail.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous Hanukkah.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on the Establishment of the Department of Homeland Security

November 26, 2002

Memorandum to Federal Employees

Yesterday I signed into law legislation to create the new Department of Homeland Security. It will unite our efforts under one roof and behind one primary mission: to protect the American people from another terrorist attack.

Achieving that goal is my highest and most urgent priority as President. Our success is made possible by the hard work and unwavering dedication you've shown before and after September 11th. Americans owe you their gratitude for helping to keep their families safe and their communities secure.

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security will focus on three critical objectives to:

- Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States;
- Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism; and
- Minimize the damage from potential attacks and natural disasters.

We will form the new Department as soon as possible. Under the terms of the initial plan I sent to the Congress, nearly all the affected agencies would be brought together on March 1 of next year.

We are assembling a great leadership team, made up of proven decision-makers who know how to get the job done. They share your vision and commitment to a more secure homeland. I intend to nominate Governor Tom Ridge to serve as Secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Gordon England to serve as Deputy Secretary, and Mr. Asa Hutchinson to serve as Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security.

Many of you are familiar with Governor Tom Ridge. As the Nation's first Homeland Security Advisor, he exercised tremendous leadership on a complex, multifaceted topic. For him, homeland security is a national effort, not simply a Federal one. Governor Ridge served as Governor of Pennsylvania for almost 6 years. Prior to that he was elected six times to the United States House of Representatives with overwhelming majorities. He is also a decorated Vietnam veteran. Governor Ridge has earned my trust and the trust of the American people. He will make a great Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England will leave his position to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Prior to his time at the Department of the Navy, Secretary England served as executive vice president of General Dynamics Corporation from 1997–2001. In addition to his background in mergers and acquisitions, his private sector experience includes management experience at Combat Systems Group, General Dynamics Fort Worth aircraft company, and General Dynamics Land Systems. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the M.J. Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University.

Asa Hutchinson currently serves as Administrator of Drug Enforcement (DEA). As head of DEA, Administrator Hutchinson has focused his efforts at dismantling high-profile drug trafficking organizations including the Arellano Felix organization. Prior to his tenure at DEA, Administrator Hutchinson served for three terms in the United States House of Representatives where he served on the House Judiciary Committee and Select Committee on Intelligence.

Once again, thank you for your dedication and commitment to homeland security and to our great country. During this time of transition it is extremely important that you continue to stay focused on your important

duties and responsibilities. I appreciate all that you have done—and all that we are about to do together during this historic chapter in our Nation's history.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Achieving Militarily Significant Benchmarks for a Sustainable Peace in Kosovo

November 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 1212 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, Public Law 106–398, I hereby submit a report, prepared by my Administration, on the progress made in achieving the militarily significant benchmarks for conditions that would achieve a sustainable peace in Kosovo and ultimately allow for the withdrawal of the United States military presence in Kosovo.

The term "militarily significant" relates to tasks and objectives significant from a military standpoint that once accomplished would allow for withdrawal of military forces from Kosovo. In the establishment of the Kosovo benchmarks, four critical tasks for NATO forces were identified: military stability, public security, border/boundary issues, and war crimes/International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia support. Objectives for these tasks were drawn from United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, the NATO Operations Plan, the Military Technical Agreement, and the Kosovo Liberation Army Undertaking.

I anticipate that KFOR—and U.S. participation in it—will gradually reduce in size as public security conditions improve and Kosovars assume increasing responsibility for their own self-government.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979

November 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

November 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27.

Remarks on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

November 27, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. Today I sign an act of Congress authorizing intelligence programs vital to our security and creating a national commission to investigate the events of September the 11th, 2001, and the years that led up to that event. This commission will help me and future Presidents to understand the methods of America's enemies and the nature of the threats we face.

Today I'm pleased to announce my choice for commission Chairman, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Dr. Kissinger is one of our Nation's most accomplished and respected public servants. He worked here at the White House as National Security Adviser, represented America abroad as the Secretary of State for two Presidents. He is a distinguished author, academic, Army veteran, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. He's also spent much of his life in New York, feels deeply the loss that came to that city and to our country. Dr. Kissinger will bring broad experience, clear thinking, and careful judgment to this important task.

Mr. Secretary, thank you for returning to the service of your nation.

Dr. Kissinger and I share the same commitments. His investigation should carefully examine all the evidence and follow all the facts, wherever they lead. We must uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September the 11th. My administration will continue to act on the lessons we've learned so far to better protect the people of this country. It's our most solemn duty.

I want to thank the congressional leaders for their work on this commission and on the broader legislation as well. The law I sign today directs new funds and new focus to the task of collecting vital intelligence on terrorist threats and on weapons of mass production—weapons proliferation. In a period of rapidly changing dangers, we will continue to work with the Congress to get the resources we need to gather information so we can better defend America.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are with us today, who worked hard to make this commission a reality: Senator Joe Lieberman—thank you, Senator—Congressman Porter Goss; Tim Roemer; Chris Shays; and Chris Smith—all distinguished Members of the United States Congress, all who join thousands of Americans who refuse to forget that which took place on September the 11th, 2001.

Above all, I want to thank the family members of the people who were killed on September the 11th, family members who are here today and others around the country. In working for this commission, you have been motivated by a noble goal: You want to spare other Americans the kind of suffering you faced. I appreciate that sentiment. America is grateful.

The Nation's families gather during holidays. You need to know that there's a lot of people who continue to pray for you. There's a lot of people that you've never seen before—you don't have any ideas of what their names are—they share your grief. I hope that provides some comfort.

September the 11th marked a dividing line in the life of our Nation. The events of a single morning dramatically demonstrated America's vulnerability to the threats of a new era. Oceans that separated us from other continents no longer separate us from danger. America's enemies are still determined to inflict great harm. We have a duty—a solemn duty—to do everything we can to protect this country.

We've acted to reduce the Nation's vulnerabilities. We're stepping up security and transportation systems at port of entries and on our borders. We've made important reforms in Federal law enforcement, ensuring that the FBI's primary focus now is the prevention of future attack. We're doing a better job of sharing information among agencies. By legislation I signed this week, we've created a Department of Homeland Security to involve the largest reorganization of the Federal Government in more than a half a century, with the goal of protecting America.

And overseas we're chasing the killers down, one person at a time—one at a time. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the Al Qaida network. There is no cave dark enough or deep enough to hide from the justice of the United States of America. And it doesn't matter how long it takes, this Nation will stay on course to find them, to bring them to justice, to make sure America's homeland is secure.

These essential steps do not complete our work, and that's important for America to know. In the war against terror, our goal is to take every measure that is necessary, to gather all information that is available and gain every advantage that is possible. An aggressive investigation into September the 11th, with a responsible concern for sensitive information that will allow us to win the war on terror, will contribute to the security of this country.

This commission's findings may show a need for further reform in intelligence gathering and other areas. I'm confident that under Dr. Kissinger's leadership the commission's work will be thorough. The recommendations will be helpful and useful.

I also hope that the commission will act quickly and issue its report prior to the 18-month deadline embodied in the legislation. After all, if there's changes that need to be made, we need to know them as soon as possible, for the security of our country. The sooner we have the commission's conclusions, the sooner this administration will act on them.

And as a people, Americans are always looking forward. As a nation, we're working every day to build a future that is peaceful and secure. To reach this goal we must learn all about the past that we can. So with this commission we have formed today, America will learn more about the evil that was done to us. And the understanding we will gain will serve us for years to come. This commission is not only important for this administration; this commission will be important for future administrations, until the world is secure from the evildoers that hate what we stand for.

I ask the Members of Congress that are here today to please come up and join me as I sign this important legislation.

May God bless the families of those who suffered on September the 11th. May God bless you today. May God bless you for long days to come, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. H.R. 4628, approved November 27, was assigned Public Law No. 107–306.

Statement on Signing the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

November 27, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4628, the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003," which authorizes appropriations to fund United States intelligence activities, including activities essential to success in the war against global terrorism. This Act also establishes the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States to examine and report on the facts and causes relating to the September 11th terrorist attacks. The Commission will build upon the work of the congressional joint inquiries to carefully examine the circumstances surrounding the attacks and the lessons to be learned from them. I expect that the Commission's final report will contain important recommendations for steps that can be taken to improve our preparedness for and response to terrorist attacks in the future.

The executive branch shall implement sections 325, 334, and 826 of the Act, and section 8H(g)(1)(A) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 as enacted by section 825 of the Act, relating to submission of recommendations to the Congress, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Many provisions of the Act, including section 342 and title VIII, establish new requirements for the executive branch to disclose sensitive information. As I have noted in signing last year's Intelligence Authorization Act and other similar legislation, the executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign

relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

The executive branch shall construe subsections 501(d) and (e), relating to the number and activities of military personnel deployed abroad, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 27, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4628, approved November 27, was assigned Public Law No. 107–306.

Memorandum on a Determination Under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

November 27, 2002

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Determination Under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

Section 6 of the Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1982, Public Law 97–261, 96 Stat. 1103, imposed a moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits to motor carriers domiciled in, or owned or controlled by persons of, a contiguous foreign country and authorized the President to modify the moratorium. The Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995 (ICCTA), Public Law 104–88, 109 Stat. 803, maintained these restrictions, subject to modifications made prior to the enactment of the ICCTA, and empowered the President to make further modifications to the moratorium.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(3), I modified the moratorium on June 5, 2001, to allow motor carriers domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico to obtain operating authority to transport international cargo by truck between points in the United States and to provide bus services between points in the United States.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) established a schedule for liberalizing certain restrictions on the provision of bus and truck services by Mexican-domiciled motor carriers in the United States. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(3), I hereby determine that the following modifications to the moratorium are consistent with obligations of the United States under NAFTA and with our national transportation policy and that the moratorium shall be modified accordingly.

First, qualified motor carriers domiciled in Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to transport passengers in cross-border scheduled bus services. Second, qualified motor carriers domiciled in Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to provide cross-border truck services. The moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits to Mexican-domiciled motor carriers for the provision of truck or bus services between points in the United States will remain in place. These modifications shall be effective on the date of this memorandum.

Furthermore, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(5), I hereby determine that expeditious action is required to implement this modification to the moratorium. Effective on the date of this memorandum, the Department of Transportation is authorized to act on applications, submitted by motor carriers domiciled in Mexico, to obtain operating authority to provide cross-border scheduled bus services and cross-border truck services. In reviewing such applications, the Department shall continue to work closely with the Department of Justice, the Office of Homeland Security, and other relevant Federal departments, agencies, and offices in order to help ensure the security of the border and to prevent potential threats to national security.

Motor carriers domiciled in Mexico operating in the United States will be subject to the same Federal and State laws, regulations, and procedures that apply to carriers domiciled in the United States. These include safety regulations, such as drug and alcohol testing requirements; insurance requirements; taxes and fees; and other applicable laws and regulations, including those administered by the United States Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization

Service, the Department of Labor, and Federal and State environmental agencies.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:06 p.m., November 29, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on December 2.

Videotape Remarks for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

November 28, 2002

Good morning. As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember to share our blessings and make this holiday season a time for giving to those in need. By helping a neighbor, we serve our Nation, and we serve a cause greater than self-interest. Everyone can do something. And through the USA Freedom Corps, you can find ways to help at a school, a food pantry, or any other organization near you.

Macy's and NBC join me in wishing you a happy Thanksgiving, and we ask you to make this holiday the start of a season of service.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at 3:10 p.m. on November 12 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast during the telecast of the November 28 parade. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 26.

Statement on Terrorist Attacks in Israel and Kenya

November 28, 2002

I condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the terrorist attacks today at the Likud Party polling place in northern Israel and the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, as well as the attempted attack on a civilian airliner shortly after it took off from Mombasa's international airport. I want to extend my condolences to the victims and their families, and to the governments and peoples of Israel and Kenya. Today's attacks underscore the continuing willingness of those opposed to peace to commit horrible crimes. Those who seek peace must do everything in their power to dismantle the infrastructure of terror that makes such actions possible. The United States remains firmly committed, with its partners around the world, to the fight against terror and those who commit these heinous acts.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 23

In the morning, at the Prezidentura in Vilnius, Lithuania, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a welcoming ceremony with President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania and his wife, Alma Adamkiene. The two Presidents then had a bilateral meeting. Later, they participated in a photo opportunity and then met with Presidents Arnold Ruutel of Estonia and Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush met with U.S. Embassy personnel at the American Center. They then traveled to Bucharest, Romania, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a welcoming ceremony with President Ion Iliescu of Romania at Cotroceni Palace. The two Presidents then had a bilateral meeting.

Later in the afternoon, the President was joined by Mrs. Bush, and they met with U.S. Embassy personnel at the Ambassador's Residence.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

November 25

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

The President announced his intention to designate Michael J. Garcia as Acting Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Department of Justice.

November 26

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Lucio Gutierrez of Ecuador to congratulate him on his November 24 electoral victory. He then had CIA and FBI briefings.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Emomali Rahmonov of Tajikistan at the White House on December 9.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Vladimir Voronin of Moldova to the White House on December 17 to discuss Moldova's continuing reforms and its aspirations to deepen cooperation with the United States and Euroatlantic structures.

November 27

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 28

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he had two telephone conversations with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice concerning the terrorist attacks in Israel and Kenya earlier in the day.

During the day, the President celebrated Thanksgiving with Mrs. Bush, their daughters, Barbara and Jenna, his parents, former President George Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush, and his brothers Marvin and Neil Bush and members of their families.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, November 22, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 23

Fact sheet: Lithuania: Military Deployments Abroad

Fact sheet: Romania: Military Deployments Abroad

Released November 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 124

Announcement of nominations for Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security at the Department of Homeland Security

Released November 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Rahmonov of Tajikistan to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Voronin of the Republic of Moldova to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2546, H.R. 3389, H.R. 4878, H.R. 5349, and S. 3044

Fact sheet: A Record of Accomplishment for America

Released November 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1070, H.R. 3340, and H.R. 3394

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 23

H.J. Res. 124 / Public Law 107–294
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes

Approved November 25

S. 1214 / Public Law 107–295
Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002

H.R. 5005 / Public Law 107–296
Homeland Security Act of 2002

Approved November 26

H.R. 3210 / Public Law 107–297
Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

H.R. 2546 / Public Law 107–298
Real Interstate Driver Equity Act of 2002

H.R. 3389 / Public Law 107–299
National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002

H.R. 4878 / Public Law 107–300
Improper Payments Information Act of 2002

H.R. 5349 / Public Law 107–301
To facilitate the use of a portion of the former O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, by the local Boys and Girls Club through the release of the reversionary interest and other interests retained by the United States in 1955 when the land was conveyed to the State of Missouri

S. 3044 / Public Law 107–302
Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Interstate Supervision Act of 2002

Approved November 27

H.R. 1070 / Public Law 107–303
Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Act of 2002

H.R. 3340 / Public Law 107–304
To amend title 5, United States Code, to allow certain catch-up contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan to be made by participants age 50 or over; to reauthorize the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Counsel; and for other purposes

H.R. 3394 / Public Law 107–305
Cyber Security Research and Development Act

H.R. 4628 / Public Law 107–306
Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003

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